(ii) Upto 50% of loan for part-B projects can be converted into grant (proportionate to achievement of targets) on achieving 15% AT and C loss levels on projects areas for a sustained period of 5 years. In addition, utility level loss reduction (AT and C losses) @ 3% per annum for utilities with baseline loss levels exceeding 30% and @ 1.5% for utilities with baseline loss levels less than 30% have to be achieved.

Operationalisation of Open Access principle

269. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved, so far, in the operationalisation of Open Access principle provided in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) whether Government has made any effort to ensure that the provision contained in the Electricity Act is fully adopted by all the States;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) (i) About 25467 transactions for short-term Open Access in inter-state transmission (excluding the transactions through power exchange) for total volume of 106 BU, have been approved till August 2008.

(ii) 87 applications for Open Access in distribution with capacity of 5365 MW have been approved.

(iii) 21 SERCs have issued regulations on open access in distribution 21 SERCs have determined Transmission Charges, 18 SERCs have determined Wheeling Charges and 19 SERCs have determined Cross Subsidy Surcharge for open access for intra-state open access.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) The Chief Ministers Conference in May, 2007 had resolved to operationalise open access in transmission and distribution.

(ii) To deliberate and operationalise the open access a Round Table was organized with the Forum of Regulators and Energy Secretaries in November, 2007.

(iii) In the conference of Chief Secretaries on 19th February, 2008, it was agreed that:

- SERCs will notify open access charges by the end of February, 2008. If necessary, State Government should give policy directions.
- SLDC should be made independent in functioning by the end of March, 2008.
- The State Governments should curb anti-competitive arrangements which were restricting the free flow of electricity.
- The Power Secretaries of the States should review monthly the decisions taken by SLDCs on open access applications.

(iv) Task Force headed by Member, CERC constituted to examine issues related to scheduling, metering and settlement of intra state Open access transactions.

(v) The Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Power) submitted its recommendations regarding Ring fencing Load Despatch Centres. Secretary (Power) held a meeting on 7.10.2008 with CERC, SERCs and the States Secretaries to fix time line for quick implementation of this report. Three task force have been constituted for this purpose.

(vi) In some cases brought before the CERC about alleged refusal of open access by SLDCs, CERC has passed orders to ensure that the SLDCs perform their statutory functions without any discrimination.

(vii) The inter-Ministeial Task Force on Measures for Operationalising Open Access in the Power Sector constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member (Power), Planning Commission, which has just submitted its report.

(d) Question does not arise.

Load shedding in Maharashtra

†270. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether load shedding in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra has increased this year;

(b) whether Government is providing more power to Maharashtra to tackle this problem;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the information reported, the maximum load shedding carried out in Maharashtra during the months of April and May, 2008 was less than the same as compared to last year by about 2460 MW and 730 MW. However, from June to August, 2008, the load shedding increased by 330 MW to 2160 MW.

(b) to (d) The prevailing allocation of power to Maharashtra from the Central Generating Stations is around 3048 MW as compared to around 2895 MW as on 31st March, 2008.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Power Projects

271. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 429, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2008 and state:

(a) whether any further progress has been made towards identifying the sites for ten Ultra Mega Power Projects, to be set up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of those Mega Power Projects which are likely to be completed within the Eleventh Five Year Plan, indicating the annual power to be generated and the areas to be served, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Further to the progress given in response to Unstarred Question No.429 answered on 3.3.2008 of the nine Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) envisaged under the Central Government initiative, the current position regarding site identification is as follow:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.